



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

November 2018

Letter from the Pastor

Overbrook Presbyterian Church is a welcoming and diverse Christian community that seeks actively to love and serve God, each other, and the world.

—Mission Statement



Friends,

It is amazing to think about how quickly time passes. Isaiah reminds us “The grass withers, the flower fades; but the Word of our God will stand forever” (Isaiah 40:8, NRSV). Staff and the Worship and Music Committee began planning for Advent and Christmastide in October. October 28 saw us celebrating the anniversary of this diverse community of faith.

As we look ahead, there are many opportunities to engage.

First, you are welcome to join the Adult Forum at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings for a robust roundtable conversation. We have planned out November as follows:

- ◆ Sunday, Nov. 4: The Christian and Civil Society (a conversation two days before Election Day).
- ◆ Sunday, Nov. 11: The Design of Worship and the Christian Year (a discussion the intentionality behind how a worship service is designed, and the various seasons of the Christian Year).
- ◆ Sunday, Nov. 18: The Design of a Service of Witness to the Resurrection (this is another name for a “funeral” service, how services can be more meaningfully planned).
- ◆ Sunday, Nov. 25: Sharing the Gospel with Undergraduate and Graduate Students (guest speaker/preacher: the Rev. Megan LeCluyse, on staff at First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania).

Second, you are welcome to join the Adult Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in McMillan Chapel. Having studied an overview of the Old Testament chronology, we focused upon “the Exile” on Oct. 31. Now we will see how this informed the work of the Prophets. We will ultimately read one of the minor prophet books together.

Third, you have been hearing in worship how our Affirmation of Faith has been drawn from the PC(USA) Book of Confessions, which is Part I of the Constitution of the Church. The Leadership Development Team of the Presbytery of Philadelphia is offering an “Introduction to the Confessions” on Saturday, November 17 at 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Oxford Presbyterian Church. For more information, please contact Pastor Raymond at pastor@overbrookpresb.org.

Though there is an emphasis on Stewardship, it is important throughout the entire year. Please be sure to join us on Sunday, November 18 as we dedicate our time, talents, and treasure (and tales and touch!) to our work together.

Finally, it has been a joy to get to visit with some of you all on the weekend. If you would like a pastoral visit, please contact the church office (office@overbrookpresb.org).

Keep the Faith,
Raymond

Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Raymond Bonwell
Bridge Pastor

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Christopher Gage
Director of Music

Sharon Parker
Director of Christian Education

Lisa Faso
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday.
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Worship and Music

Your Worship and Music Committee is already at work on Advent and Christmas worship and music activities. But before that there are a few things that you need to know:

On *November 4*, Chris Gage will be away, and has engaged Frank Dodd, from the Lancaster area, as his substitute.

November 25 is Christ the King Sunday, and Raymond Bonwell will be away that day. He has arranged for a substitute pastor, the Rev. Megan LeCluyse. Rev. LeCluyse is on staff at First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and is also a campus minister at the University of Pennsylvania. Christ the King Sunday represents the end of Ordinary Time, the last Sunday of the Church Year, when we celebrate the Supreme Rule of Christ over our lives and the hope of his reign over all the earth.

December 2 begins Advent. We plan to provide the congregation with an Advent devotional booklet, so look for it on the tables in late November. *December 2* is also the date of our annual Messiah sing at 3:00 pm. All singers are welcome. Please invite friends and family to join this wonderful pickup choir over 100 voices, to enjoy making music and hearing our wonderful soloists perform.

In other issues: HANDBELL CHOIR is on hiatus due to LACK OF BELL RINGERS!! Several members of the handbell choir have decided to retire after many years of service, others have gone to college. PLEASE consider trying out handbell ringing in order to have bells at Christmas, which we would all enjoy. Don't worry if you think you are too young or too old! Contact Chris for more information.

If you or your child would like to serve as an acolyte, please contact Nickie Stokes. This is traditionally done by a young person of Middle School to High School age.

If you would like to serve as a Lay Leader, please contact Alyce Marsh by phone at 215-472-7886. This requires the ability to read clearly in public and make announcements and prayers as required. Training and plenty of advice are available. We especially welcome new members or those who have not participated before. One must take this responsibility seriously and arrive early to consult with the pastor before the service begins.

Please contact Rachel Carnahan at carnahanrachel@gmail.com with any suggestions or .

From the Music

The Messiah Sing at Overbrook: An Advent Tradition



Georg Frideric Handel's *Messiah* has become one of the most recognizable indications that Christmas is near. During Advent, the season of expectation, we offer the church and community a truly uplifting experience—the ability to sing along to your favorite *Messiah* choruses, in addition to hearing our wonderful Overbrook Quartet perform selected arias and recitatives. Mark your calendars!

The 24th Annual *Messiah* Sing
Sunday, December 2, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.
Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Inspired to Sing? It's Not Too Late!

We can all agree that the members of the Overbrook Junior Choir sang beautifully in worship last month. If your child or a child you know is interested in joining our ranks, they are still more than welcome! We rehearse every Monday at 5:15 p.m., with dinner to follow at 6:00. If transportation is an issue, carpooling arrangements can be made. The same offer is extended to anyone interested in singing with the Overbrook Choir. We have been blessed with several new members this year and certainly would not turn down a few more. Our rehearsals are every Thursday from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the choir room.

Christian Education



College Exam "We Care" Packages

Nothing says *thinking of you* like a box filled with snack goodies during exam time! In November, OPC Youth will be assembling "we care" packages for our Overbrook college students. The packages will be ready for parent pick-up following worship on Sunday, November 18. Packages will be mailed to those students who are unable to be home for Thanksgiving. Parents...please reserve a box for you college student, and provide a current address for those students who need to have the package delivered to campus.

Spiritual Gifts for OPC College Students

Let's keep OPC college students in our thoughts and prayers! During November a College Life bulletin board will be taking shape in the Wistar Morris Room. Parents are invited to share current photos of their college students, and include their current addresses and a brief summary of their chosen fields of interest. Members of the congregation will have the opportunity to drop a note, send an email, and offer prayer for our fine young people.



Advent Wreath Workshop and Dinner: November 25 4:00-6:00 PM in the Wistar Morris Room

The lighting of the Advent wreath is a special component of worship each Sunday in Advent...but the prayers, readings, and lighting of the candles can be part of our daily lives, as well. Let us bring the joy and anticipation of Advent into our homes and hearts this season by creating a new devotional tradition. All are invited to an Advent Wreath-making workshop and dinner from 4:00-6:00 PM on November 25. Participants will make a tabletop Advent wreath for home use during the season. All supplies will be provided, including daily Advent devotions to use in your home. In the spirit of Overbrook fellowship, an informal meal will be served. While there will be no cost to make a wreath, or to enjoy the meal, a free-will offering basket will be available to assist with the costs of supplies and materials. RSVP by November 18. Please sign up in the Wistar Morris Room following worship, or respond to Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com). All ages welcome.

OPC Talks...and Walks November 27, 7:00-8:30 PM Chapel Topic: *Annihilation of Gun Violence* Join us as we welcome Movita Johnson-Harrell, Supervisor of the Victim's Service Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. She has been aptly described as "a warrior woman working to annihilate gun violence." Movita is the founder of the Charles Foundation, named in honor and in memory of her son, Charles Andre Johnson, a victim of gun violence.



Snow What? It's time for "Frosty's *Sleep Under!*"

Young "Overbrookers" are invited to join the fun on November 30, from 6:00-9:00 PM. We'll be celebrating the change of seasons with PJ's, PBJ's (and other goodies), a special film, and games. Feel free to come in your comfy pajamas. This special evening is designed for children age 4 through grade 4. Parent helpers (*with clearances*) will be warmly welcomed. There will be no charge to attend "Frosty's *Sleep Under.*" RSVP: Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com) by November 25.

Christian Education (Cont'd)



OPC Youth...in a feeding frenzy!

Our OPC Youth have been stirring the pots and baking up a storm for those in need. In October, over 40 containers of chicken vegetable soup were prepared for Aid for Friends, and brownies were baked for the Life Center in Delaware County. On November 16, OPC Youth will be filling "We Care" packages for college students and packaging Thanksgiving meals for distribution to five deserving families. They've earned their aprons...they've earned their wings!

Mission and Outreach

The Women's Dining Circle will meet on Friday, November 9 at Liz Shah's house to benefit ElderNet. If you would like to be added to the Evite and be able to get all the details for this event, please send Carol Rozmiarek your email address at carol@overbrookpresb.org.

The Overbrook Youth are busy with a variety of projects. In November, the youth will help provide Thanksgiving meals for those in need. If you would like to volunteer with our youth, please be sure you have your child protection clearances. Sharon Parker maintains the official list, so if you have obtained your PA Clearances, let Sharon know.

Our Fair-Trade Market is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 1 and Sunday, December 2. This is a great time to pick up some Christmas gifts that you can feel good about. These purchases help provide a fair wage to the artisans who craft the items. There are all kinds of things to choose from, so come by and take a look. You may get all your Christmas shopping done!



Feed My Starving Children has set the date for the Care at the Crossroads Mobilepack. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27, 2019. Recruit your friends and colleagues to pack thousands of meals for children around the world. It's fun for the whole family. Children as young as five years old can help out.

Please note that Mission & Outreach Meeting will take place on Sunday November 4, 2018 and Sunday, November 25, 2018 at 12:00pm in the Chapel. Our regularly scheduled October meeting had to be postponed, due to a scheduling conflict. We would love to have you join us!



NCT NARBETH COMMUNITY THEATRE

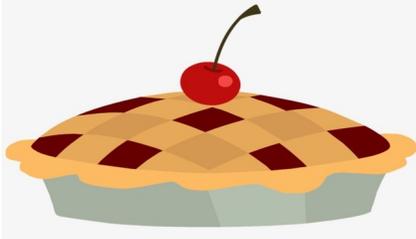
New Season starting this Nov. 2nd, Friday

Little Shop Horrors!

a delectable sci-fi horror musical (1960's pop/rock score)

Narberth Community Theater play this November with a new play (or maybe not so familiar one) of Little Shop HORRORS!, a musical. Remember, NCT has allocated a certain amount of tickets for each play to us to sell, and the price of the ticket is completely donated to OPC. See Jeff Bowker for these tickets. Revenues from 'THEATRE REFRESHMENT STAND' are also slotted to support OPC's general budget. We can still use a few helping hands for this endeavor. -Contact Person: Trudy Sheau, 215 878 4872

Stewardship



PLEDGES AND PIES

We are in the season of Stewardship at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. In the coming Sundays, we will be hearing members of the community share about their involvement in and support of Overbrook. As you listen, we ask you to also prayerfully consider your support of Overbrook for the coming year.

On November 18, the congregation will be invited to come forward to have pledges for 2019 blessed. We'll also mark this special day with the traditional pie sharing at Coffee Hour. As a truly diverse and welcoming community, we offer pies of all shapes, sizes and varieties! Please feel free to bring one to share. Blessings to all.

Support Overbrook Presbyterian Church AND Narberth Community Theater -at the same time!

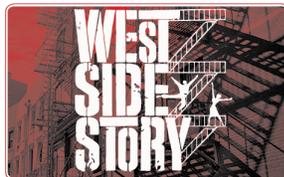
Narberth Community Theater has set aside 10 tickets for each performance of this year's three shows for Overbrook members and friends. All the proceeds of those \$20 tickets go to the church!

In the past, NCT has hosted one performance of each show to benefit OPC. Making available tickets for each show enables you to pick the one that is most conveniently timed.

The lineup this year is wonderful: *Little Shop of Horrors* in November, *West Side Story* in March and *California Suite* in May.

Tickets are now on sale at Coffee Hour for *Little Shop of Horrors* playing November 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 8 p.m. and November 4 and 11 – 2018 at 3 p.m. Contact Jeff Bowker for more information.

Little Shop of Horrors is a horror comedy rock musical about a hapless florist shop worker who raises a plant that feeds on human blood and flesh. The music, composed by Alan Menken in the style of early 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop and early Motown, includes several well-known tunes, including the title song, "Skid Row (Downtown)," "Somewhere That's Green" and "Suddenly, Seymour." The musical premiered off-off-Broadway in 1982 before moving to a five-year run at the Orpheum Theatre. It later was produced on Broadway. Because of its small cast and relatively simple orchestrations, it has become popular with community theater, school and other amateur groups. The musical was also made into a 1986 film of the same name, directed by Frank Oz.



The Stewardship Committee offers one last heartfelt THANK YOU to all who contributed to making this year's Taste of Overbrook such a success. More than 120 people feasted on dozens of spectacular dishes and desserts from around the globe. We exceeded our fundraising goal, earning about \$7,000 in ticket, raffle and auction sales! This all was made possible through the incredible generosity of time, talent and treasure by many people and businesses in the area. These important funds will help us continue our mission to do God's work here on earth.

Congregational Life/Fellowship

Coffee Hour for November/December



We are still in need of hosts for the following Sundays: November 4 and 25 and all Sundays in December.

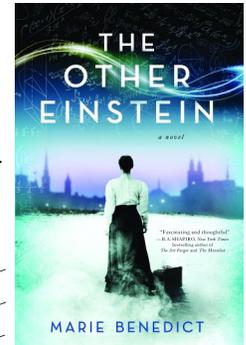
If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour instructions for this easily accomplished, highly valued ministry are available on the OPC web site and in the church kitchen (on the microwave). For more information please contact Raelyn Harman at 610-331-8972 or Artia Benjamin. Thank you.

Urban Suburban Book Club

November selection - *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict
Meeting: Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 7pm at Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

We do not meet in December.

This is a book club of diverse membership involving members of several Presbyterian churches, including Overbrook. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Alyce Marsh at 215-472-7886.



Are you looking for a meaningful yet simple way to get involved in the life of the OPC Community? The CLC has a great opportunity for someone who is organized and friendly. OPC needs a **Coffee Hour Coordinator**. The Coffee Hour Coordinator would check the sign-up board to confirm people have volunteered to host coffee hour, encourages people to volunteer and connect with another family or other members to co-host a coffee hour, periodically includes announcements in the worship folder, keeps an eye on supplies and lets people know what needs to be ordered and is available to answer questions.

The Coordinator would have the full support of the CLC to learn what is routinely needed and for back-up. It is a great way to get to know more people. Hospitality is an important and valued ministry of the OPC Community. Please prayerfully consider if this is where you are feeling called to serve. Please contact Raelyn at 610-331-8972 or Artia at 215-266-8758 if you have any questions or are interested. Thank you.

Other opportunities: Plans are underway for the, Prayer Breakfast, (11/10), Retired Persons Café (11/16), OPC Talks and Walks (11/27), Christmas Eve Family Simple Supper, Christmas Eve Gingerbread House decorating and 12/30 Luncheon for High School Juniors, Seniors and College Students. The CLC welcomes help to set-up, clean-up, shop for and coordinate these occasions. If you would like to pitch in to make one of these events a success, please let us know. There are no committee meetings you're required to attend, and no subsequent commitment expected. We appreciate what you can contribute as your schedule and energy allows.

Please see Sharon Parker, Raelyn Harman or Artia Benjamin about getting involved.



Harvest Prayer Breakfast: November 10, 9:30-11:00 AM Let's celebrate the harvest season with fellowship, fine food, and prayers of thanksgiving! The OPC Harvest Prayer Breakfast will be a tribute to the blessings of farm and orchard. Come and enjoy a breakfast buffet featuring homemade pumpkin and zucchini breads, apple crisp, hot apple cider, an array of breakfast casseroles, sausage gravy and biscuits, and fresh fruit. Following breakfast, we'll have a time of shared prayer...for our country, our congregation, our families, and our friends. All ages are welcome...friends and neighbors are invited. Prayer Breakfasts are a ministry of the Congregational Life Committee; there is no charge to attend. A free will offering basket will be available for those wishing to make a contribution. The offering will help provide meals for those in need. Please sign up to attend (and to assist) at the Prayer Breakfast display in the Wistar Morris Room...or by contacting Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com).

The RPM (Retired Person's Ministry) Cafe is Open! November 16, 11:30-1:00 PM The RPM Cafe is open for business, and our business is fellowship and fun! Please join OPC members and friends of a "certain" age for light-hearted conversation and lunch. Bring your own sandwich or salad...the Cafe will provide choice of homemade soup (chicken corn noodle or ham and bean), beverages, and desserts. Following lunch, we'll explore and discuss the topic of the day: *The awesome impact of gratitude!* The RPM Cafe is a ministry of the Congregational Life and Christian Education committees...**there is no charge to participate.** RSVP: Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com)

| Nominating Committee | From Your Session |
|---|--|
|  <p>Your Nominating Committee continues prayerful consideration of candidates for elder and deacon as well as at-large members of the 2019 nominating committee. We continue to be astonished at the large number of nominations. This strong interest certainly reflects the talent and the strength of the OPC congregation.</p> <p>The final slate of nominees will be announced in the first week of December and the election of officers will take place at a congregational meeting after the service on December 9.</p> <p>Will Schick, Nominating Committee Chair</p> | <p>The Session decided at its last meeting that Session meetings would be open to observers. Session meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, year-round, at 7:00 p.m. in McMillan Chapel. They generally last two to two-and-a half hours. Session meetings open and close with prayer and include a devotion, but are largely devoted to routine reports and discussions of church business. If a confidential matter should arise, the Session may elect to go into executive session, and all observers would be asked to leave. If you would like to attend a Session meeting as an observer, please RSVP ahead of time to the Clerk of Session at skdavis@verizon.net.</p> <p>Sara Davis, Clerk of Session</p> |

Deacons

| <u>Happy November Birthdays</u> | <u>Prayer List</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------|------------|-------|--------------|------|-------------------|-------|---------------|------|-------------|--|-----------|-------|--------------|--|-------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|------------|--|
| <table border="0"> <tr> <td>11/2</td> <td>Simon Trindade</td> <td>11/18</td> <td>Sarah Stephens</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/4</td> <td>Lynn Pompa</td> <td>11/22</td> <td>Zachary Wong</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/5</td> <td>Gopal Subramanian</td> <td>11/24</td> <td>George Schick</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/6</td> <td>Martha Phan</td> <td></td> <td>Kai Davis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/10</td> <td>Chris Ziemba</td> <td></td> <td>Judy Swartz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/11</td> <td>Laurie Geers</td> <td>11/26</td> <td>Jason Sheau</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/14</td> <td>Joyce Bridges</td> <td>11/29</td> <td>John Nathaniel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/17</td> <td>Emma Biederman</td> <td>11/30</td> <td>Cindy Gray</td> </tr> </table> | 11/2 | Simon Trindade | 11/18 | Sarah Stephens | 11/4 | Lynn Pompa | 11/22 | Zachary Wong | 11/5 | Gopal Subramanian | 11/24 | George Schick | 11/6 | Martha Phan | | Kai Davis | 11/10 | Chris Ziemba | | Judy Swartz | 11/11 | Laurie Geers | 11/26 | Jason Sheau | 11/14 | Joyce Bridges | 11/29 | John Nathaniel | 11/17 | Emma Biederman | 11/30 | Cindy Gray | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Karen Taussig-Lux's father, Bill Lux, died. Bill lived in upstate New York, and his health had been declining for several years. The services will be after Thanksgiving. ♦ Cheryl Davis's youngest son, Elias Hotek, has viral pneumonia. ♦ Diane Kaercher, Gail Kaercher's sister-in-law, is hospitalized in Indiana for a ruptured colon. ♦ Christopher, Peggy Boatwright's grandson, is in St. Christopher's Children Hospital with medical issues. ♦ Wayne Gage, Chris Gage's father, is undergoing testing for a heart condition. ♦ Lynn Pompa is still recovering from back surgery. He is continuing physical therapy. ♦ John Nathaniel is still recovering from a recent stroke. ♦ Ellen Burr is experiencing ongoing medical concerns. <p><i>Please contact Mike Rottinger to add names or concerns to this list. Mike can be reached by email, mike.rottinger@comcast.net.</i></p> |
| 11/2 | Simon Trindade | 11/18 | Sarah Stephens | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11/4 | Lynn Pompa | 11/22 | Zachary Wong | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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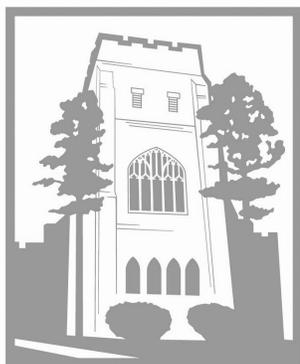
Note from the Red Cross

Thank you, Overbrook Presbyterian Church, for partnering with the American Red Cross! The blood collected from your most recent blood drive, held on 9/7/2018, went to the below hospitals.

HOSPITAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PA
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
HAHNEMANN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
ABINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Every day, hospitals provide lifesaving blood to patients in need. Your willingness to open your doors and recruit blood donors remains vital to the lives of the patients that we serve, not only locally, but across the country.

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

Upcoming Worship Schedule

November 4, 2018**

Communion Sunday

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Mark 12:28-34

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Dick Williamson

Coffee Hour: TBD

November 11, 2018

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Mark 12:38-44

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Kate Shackelford

Coffee Hour: Emily Amerman & Jim Vagnoni

November 18, 2018

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Mark 13:1-8

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Aimerie Scherluebbe

Coffee Hour: Stewardship

November 25, 2018

Christ the King

Lectionary: John 18:33-37

Preaching: The Rev. Megan LeCluyse

Lay Leader: Becky Lazo

Coffee Hour: TBD



**Don't Forget to turn your clocks back one hour next Saturday, November 3. Gain that extra hour of sleep and arrive early to service on Sunday, November 4.